

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 2 and 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated mutant ~~according to Claim 3~~, which is *Monascus purpureus* M022 deposited with the American Type Culture Collection under Accession No. PTA-4486.

Claim 5 (currently amended) ~~The~~ An isolated mutant ~~according to Claim 3~~, which is *Monascus purpureus* M01033 deposited with the American Type Culture Collection under Accession No. PTA-4485.

Claim 6 (withdrawn/currently amended) A method for producing a fermentation product, comprising providing the isolated mutant of claim 3 4 or 5, and cultivating the mutant under fermentation conditions to obtain a fermentation product wherein the fermentation product contains GABA and the amount of citrinin contained therein is less than 1.0 ppm.

Claim 7 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said fermentation product has blood pressure lowering activity.

Claim 8 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said mutant is cultivated in a solid or liquid medium.

Claim 9 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the pH value of said medium is between 3 to 9.

Claim 10 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the pH value of said medium is between 5 to 7.

Claim 11 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the amount of citrinin in said fermentation product is lower than 0.5 ppm.

Claim 12 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the amount of citrinin in said fermentation product is lower than 0.15 ppm.

Claim 13 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said fermentation product is incorporated as an active ingredient into a pharmaceutical composition or a food additive.

Claim 14 (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 7, which further comprises a purification step of purifying the ingredients having blood pressure lowering activity to obtain the purified ingredients.

Claims 15 to 26 (cancelled)